

## Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Direct Payments, Crop Insurance, and Environmental Compliance in US Agriculture

Type of Report  
(ERR, EIB, EB) EB

Agency: Economic Research Service [X] Influential Scientific Information  
USDA [ ] Highly Influential Scientific Assessment

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Subject of Review: Environmental compliance requirements leverage a broad set of agriculture programs to provide incentives for soil conservation and wetland protection. To maintain eligibility for most agricultural programs, farmers must actively apply remedial practices if they plant on “highly erodible” land and refrain from draining wetlands to make them ready for crop production. From the beginning of environmental compliance in 1985, farm commodity programs have accounted for a large share of payments that could be withheld from farmers in violation of compliance requirements. But since 2007, high crop prices have reduced farm commodity payments. This report examines the effect including crop insurance premium subsidies under compliance regulations could have on the efficacy of environmental compliance requirements if crop prices remain high.

Purpose of Review: The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.

Type of Review: [ ] Panel Review [X] Individual Reviewers

[ ] Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 09/13/11 End: XX/XX/XX Completed: XX/XX/XX

Number of Reviewers: [ ] 3 or fewer [X] 4 to 10 [ ] More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by: [X] Agency [ ] Designated Outside Organization  
Organization's Name:

Opportunities for Public Comment? [ ] Yes [X] No

If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:

How:

When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments? [ ] Yes [X] No

Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel? [ ] Yes [X] No

